

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 17640

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG US
SUBJECT: TALK WITH SADAT ON HIS JULY 23 SPEECH--
- HIS REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG

1. DURING MY LONG MEETING WITH SADAT, JULY 24, I CONGRATULATED HIM ON HIS SPEECH AND THANKED HIM FOR THE KIND COMMENTS HE HAD MADE ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITIVE ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. I SAID THAT HE COULD BE SURE HIS COMMENTS WERE APPRECIATED AND THAT I KNEW THEY WERE INTENDED TO BE HELPFUL. SADAT RESPONDED BY EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S GENEROUS WORDS ABOUT HIM.

2. I THEN TOOK THE OCCASION TO SAY THAT I HAD ONLY ONE WORD OF REGRET. I THOUGHT THAT HIS REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG WAS UNFAIR AND UNNECESSARY. MR. GOLDBERG IS A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN, WHO CARRIED OUT HIS DUTIES AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UN DURING THE DIFFICULT PERIOD BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE '67 WAR WITH UNDERSTANDING AND A METICULOUS DESIRE TO BE FAIR TO ALL PARTIES. UN RESOLUTION 242, WHICH WE ALL AGREE IS THE ONLY AVAILABLE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT, COULD BE BROUGHT INTO BEING ONLY THROUGH THE UNFLAGGING EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG. I KNEW THAT THE ARAB SIDE HAD NOT
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ALWAYS AGREED WITH MR. GOLDBERG, BUT THIS WAS EQUALLY TRUE OF THE ISRAELI SIDE. MOREOVER, AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG REPRESENTED THE USG AND WAS EXECUTING THE POLICIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

3. SADAT DID NOT TAKE MY COMMENT AMISS. HE WAS A LITTLE SHEEPISH, BUT UNREPENTANT. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT

QUESTION AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE POLICIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. AS WE KNEW, HOWEVER, NOT ONLY EGYPT BUT MOST ARAB STATES CONSIDERED THE POLICIES OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON IN THE PERIOD AFTER THE '67 WAR WERE ONE-SIDED AND UNJUST TO THE ARABS AND STILL DO SO. WHAT HE WAS SEEKING TO EXPLAIN IN HIS SPEECH, SADAT CONTENDED, WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EVEN-HANDED APPROACH OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND WHAT HE AND ALL OTHER ARABS PERCEIVE AS THE ONE-SIDED, ANTI-ARAB POLICIES OF THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION. AS I KNEW, THAT PORTION OF HIS SPEECH HAD BEEN EXTEMPORANEOUS AND HE HAD MENTIONED MR. GOLDBERG ONLY BECAUSE THE LATTER COMES TO MIND FOR MOST ARABS WHEN THEY REFLECT ON US POLICY DURING THE IMMEDIATE POST-67 PERIOD. HE DID NOT IN ANY WAY QUESTION MR. GOLDBERG'S INTEGRITY OR PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, BUT HE HAD TO DISAGREE WITH MY JUDGMENT THAT MR. GOLDBERG HAD BEEN FAIR. HE HOPED THAT THIS COMMENTS HAD NOT GIVEN ANY OFFENSE, BUT HE HAD TO SAY THE TRUTH AS HE SAW IT.

4. I SAID THAT I HAD OFTEN HEARD ARAB VIEWS ON US POLICY IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-67 PERIOD, BUT I HAD TO DISAGREE WITH HIS ESTIMATE. I HAD TO TELL HIM, AS I HAD IN THE PAST TOLD MANY OTHER ARAB FRIENDS, THAT THEIR INDICTMENT OF THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE
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TOWARD THE ARABS IS INCORRECT AND UNFAIR. THERE WAS LITTLE POINT, HOWEVER, TO REHASHING PAST HISTORY SINCE EACH PARTY HAS A DIFFERENT VIEW OF IT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW IS TO LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE AND TO SEEK WAYS AND MEANS OF ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE HAD TAKEN THE LEAD IN THIS EFFORT THROUGH HIS HISTORIC VISIT TO JERUSALEM AND WE MUST NOW BUILD ON WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED. AS HE KNEW, USG CONTINUES TO WANT TO HELP IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY, BUT I HOPED THAT HE WOULD IN FUTURE SPEECHES AVOID SINGLING OUT EMINENT AMERICANS WITH WHOM HE HAPPENS TO HAVE DISAGREED. THIS KIND OF THING, APART FROM BEING UNFAIR TO THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED, IS NOT HELPFUL TO PRESIDENT CARTER OR THE ADMINISTRATION IN SEEKING TO WIN AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A POSITIVE POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. SADAT MADE NO COMMITMENT, BUT I THINK HE GOT THE POINT. EILTS

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